San Francisco Chronicle 9
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New Report On Nixon's Pneumonia

New York

President Nixon's attack of viral pneumonia, which put him into Bethesda Naval Hospital for nine days in July, was more serious than White House bulletins had indicated, Newsweek magazine said yesterday.

Newsweek's current issue reports that a top official says that Mr. Nixon was coughing blood before going to Bethesda and that his condition "scared hell" out of his White House visitro.

Reuters

29 November 1973

Dear Harold:

This strikes us as a plant, possibly an important one.

It is not difficult to discern other possible signposts since the indisposition last summer -- such as the persistant refusal to resign and the recurrent affronts of such outlandishness as almost to invite impeachment. "As long as I'm physically able, etc."

The possiblities are not pretty. As soon as Ford is confirmed, we shall be free to come down with anything we fancy and to any degree advisable at the time. Ford will become acting president and will follow instructions. There will be no need to resign because we shan't be that ill. And you wouldn't impeach a sick man, would you ? This could go on forever

Incapacity through illness has been, of course, a possiblity all along. Certainly it was one of those we first listed here in our explorations of what could take place. But because of our long familiarity with such threadbare devices in Kuomintang China we tended always to put it aside on a very out-of-the-way shelf. We again underestimated our man's capacity for shameless imitation and the unbelieveably corny.

I note it here as a possibility which he may be keeping open as an option and which has certain advantages over his other available alternatives. Perhaps we'd better keep an eye on it.

jdw